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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herein.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

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1. (Currently amended) A system that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:
 - a first computer system that communicate with a network; and
 - at least a second computer system that provides network information, the first computer system queries the network and receives the network information from the at least a second computer system before a network identification has been established for the first computer system and the first computer configures a network interface based on modifications to at least one stored configuration stored therein and associated with the received network information.
 2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a storage for storing the at least one configuration utilized to configure the network interface.
 3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the first computer system configures the network interface by determining a network identification associated with the network information and matching the at least one configuration with the network identification.
 4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one configuration is determined from previous network configurations.
 5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one configuration is determined from previous static configurations.
 6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least one configuration is determined from previous dynamic configurations.
 7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the query is a multicast.

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8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, the multicast is addressed to a multicast Internet Protocol (IP) address.
9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 8, the source IP address is 0.0.0.0.
10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, the at least a second computer system responds to the multicast address *via* a Network Configuration Protocol (NCP) header.
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10, the NCP header further comprises a subnet address and subnet mask.
12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.
13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, the ARP broadcast is associated with a router defined in the at least one configuration.
14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the first computer system interfaces to the network *via* at least one Network Interface Card (NIC).
15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the first computer system further comprises a timer for determining a time to receive the network information.
16. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the at least a second computer system further comprises a timer for mitigating network traffic.

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17. (Previously presented) A method that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising the steps of:

querying a network, the network comprising a plurality of network systems wherein respective network systems include a delay timer with a delay time based on a value of an associated address;

receiving a response from the network; and

configuring a network interface before a network identification has been established based upon the response from the network.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

determining a network identification associated with the response; and

matching at least one configuration associated with the network identification.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, the query is at least one of a multicast and a broadcast.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, the response is at least one of a multicast and a broadcast.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of starting a local timer to determine if a response has been received.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of starting at least one network system delay timer in order to mitigate network traffic.

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24. (Previously presented) A system that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:
- means for querying a network;
 - means for receiving a response from the network; and
 - means for configuring a network interface before a network identification has been established based upon the response from the network.
25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 24, further comprising:
- means for determining a network identification associated with the response; and
 - means for matching at least one configuration associated with the network identification.
26. (Previously presented) A system that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:
- a first computer system with a network interface;
 - a storage that stores at least one configuration associated with a network;
 - at least a second computer system that provides network information to the first computer system; and
 - a Multiple Internet Protocol Configurations (MIPC) service that matches the at least one configuration with a network identification associated with the network information, wherein the first computer configures the network interface based on the matched configuration.
27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, the Multiple Internet Protocol Configurations (MIPC) service comprising a set of configurations based on at least one of past network configurations and predetermined configurations, the set utilized to the network identification.
28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, the network interface is at least one Network Interface Card (NIC).
29. (Previously presented) The system of claim 28, the NIC is mapped to the at least one configuration by the MIPC service.

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30. (Previously presented) The system of claim 29, the NIC is mapped *via* a binary table.
31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, further comprising at least one configuration detector (CD) for providing an association between the NIC and the at least one configuration.
32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31, the configuration detector initiates a network operation by registering the network operation with the MIPC service.
33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 26, the at least one configuration further comprises at least one of an Internet Protocol (IP) address, a subnet mask, a gateway address, a DHCP server, and a name server.
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B 34. (Previously presented) A system that automates detection and configuration of network parameters, comprising:
- a first computer system having a network interface;
 - a storage that stores at least one configuration associated with a network;
 - a second computer system that provides network information; and
 - a third computer system without a network identification;
- wherein the first computer system queries the second computer system *via* the network interface to receive the network information before a network identification has been established for the first computer system;
- the first computer system configures the network interface by determining a network identification associated with the network information and matching the at least one configuration with the network identification; and
- the third computer system determines a network configuration *via* communications from at least one of the first computer system and the second computer system.
35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, the query is a multicast.

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36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, the query is an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) broadcast.

37. (Cancelled)

B 38. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, further comprising a router that transmits network configuration information periodically.

39. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, the query requests and responses are multicast over different addresses.